Manual of Prayers

to the

Holy Ghost

THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE HOLY GHOST

The Apostleship of the Holy Ghost

LOVE AND SUFFERING

MANUAL of PRAYERS

TO THE

HOLY GHOST

COMPILED BY

THE VERY REVEREND FATHER FELIX OF JESUS

Superior General of the Missionaries of the Holy Ghost and Director General of the Apostleship of the Holy Ghost

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The Apostleship of the Holy Ghost

On August 30, 1924, His Holiness Pope Pius XI in reply to a petition by the Very Rev. Felix of Jesus, Superior-General of the Missionaries of the Holy Ghost, issued the following Indulgences:

Plenary—On day of reception into the Apostleship and at the hour of death.

On the Feasts of Pentecost and Corpus Christi.

Partial — Seven years and seven quarantines on the first Monday of each month, for assisting at exercises held on that day in honor of the Holy Ghost.

100 days for each act performed in conformity with the spirit of the Apostleship.

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DEVOTION TO THE HOLY GHOST

The world knows not the Holy Ghost. Many pious souls have no devotion towards Him.

He is, as it were, forgotten almost by all, and He is, nevertheless, the Soul of the Church.

Leo XIII, in his Encyclical upon the Holy Ghost, strongly urges all the faithful to love this Divine Spirit.

He exhorts all Bishops and priests to preach this sanctifying devotion with a new and burning zeal.

Jesus, before His Ascension into Heaven, commends this devotion to His Apostles, promising them the coming of the Holy Ghost, Who "will teach you all things" (St. John xiv. 26).

The Holy Ghost is perpetually at work in the Church, which undertakes nothing of importance without invoking His aid in the solemn hymn, *Veni Creator.*

The Holy Ghost guides the Church and each individual soul.

We see what power He has when we consider what the Apostles were *before and after His coming* in the Supper-room.

How many souls desirous of perfection

are, as it were, at a standstill, because they do not invoke the Holy Ghost, relegating Him to oblivion in the whole course of their spiritual life. Desiring to be holy, yet scarcely ever thinking of the *Sanctifier!*

Our priests, hear and give heed to the voice of Leo XIII, and by every means: in the pulpit, in the confessional, in conversation, by means of the press, etc., preach this most precious devotion!

Let the faithful hearken to the priests, who, obedient to the voice of the Sovereign Pontiff, have become Apostles of such a sublime devotion. They will soon experience a great change in their souls. Soon new horizons will open to their view, and they will marvel at their rapid progress, if they set themselves to invoke with frequence the Divine Dove, the Source of all light, of all consolation and of all strength.

The Holy Ghost will multiply His holy inspirations in their souls. He will fill them with His gifts, and He Himself will abide in them, to be their Guide.

Happy the souls devoted to the Holy Ghost! They are already beginning their heaven here upon earth, meriting choice graces, and receiving special strength to enable them to correspond with His divine inspirations.

THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE HOLY GHOST

(a) Its Object

The Apostleship of the Holy Ghost has for its end the spread of devotion towards the Holy Ghost. It is not an Association or Confraternity, but a Pious Union, and therefore, Religious Communities can belong to it. It has been established with Episcopal approval in many dioceses.

(b) Establishment of the Work in a Parish

In the first place it is necessary that the establishment of the Work be approved by the Bishop of the diocese.

Those desirous of establishing the Work in a Parish should put themselves in touch with the priest in charge of the Parish, who will, either directly or through one of his assistant priests, take over the direction of the Work, and arrange that at the meeting on the First Monday of each month there will always be an address upon the Holy Ghost.

The Parochial Promoter will secure Assistant Promoters, who will endeavor to obtain members for the Apostleship.

The members should be daily Communi-

cants, excepting only those who live in districts where there is not Mass every day, or those who are prevented for a time by reason of household duties, etc., provided, in both cases, that they are disposed to comply with this requirement as soon as the impediment is removed.

On the day of the enrollment and reception of members, and even more especially on the day of the inauguration of the Work in a parish, there should be recited the formula of the Promise contained in the *Manual,* page 7, in which the members of the Apostleship solemnly undertake to spread devotion towards the Holy Ghost, at least by the daily recital of a *Hail Mary* for this intention.

(c) The Spirit of the Apostleship

1. The members of the Apostleship of the Holy Ghost should have a mutual fraternal love for one another, thus imitating the Christians of the first centuries.

2. If a member should fall ill, the Promoter concerned will visit the sick member; and, if the illness should become serious, will, above all, take care that the Last Sacraments are received in good time.

3. On receiving notice of the death of a member, the members will hear a Mass

in favor of the soul of the deceased member. If the deceased member was a Promoter, Low Mass will be offered for his or her soul, at the expense of the funds of the Work.

4. The members of the Apostleship of the Holy Ghost should be most devoted to their Parish, giving their services with good will for all parochial works in so far as their capacity and duties permit, but assisting, above all, in works of charity, the teaching of catechism and the encouragement of *vocations to the priesthood.*

5. The principal object of their prayers will be:

(a) To implore the coming of the reign of the Holy Ghost, and the Consecration of the whole world to that Divine Spirit. (See the prayer for that intention, page 43.)

(b) The sanctification of priests.

(c) The multiplication and cultivation of Vocations to the Priesthood.

Seven Advantages of the Vow or Solemn Promise to Spread Devotion to the Holy Ghost

I. It creates a special bond of love between our souls and the Third Divine Person.

II. A notable increase of devotion especially towards the Divine Eucharist, the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

III. The certainty of receiving in our souls more inspirations from the Holy Ghost with the strength to put them into practice.

IV. We procure the glory of God in an excellent manner, striving every day to make the Sanctifier of souls known and loved.

V. We work most efficaciously for the coming of the Kingdom of God in the world by the vivifying action of the Holy Ghost.

VI. Whoever makes the Vow or Promise is truly and practically an Apostle of the Holy Ghost.

VII. It draws down upon the soul the special help of the Divine Spirit; more intimate union with God by means of the Sanctifier; greater progress in mental prayer; more consolation, and even joy, in the hour of death, after such a sublime Apostleship.

"The frequent invocation of the Holy Ghost is a sure pledge of success in the affairs which we undertake."

How to Practice the Apostleship of the Holy Ghost

1. Upon a fixed day, to make the *Act of Consecration* of oneself to the Holy Ghost, and the *Solemn Promise, but without obligation under pain of sin, to spread devotion towards Him every day.*

2. To invoke the Holy Ghost frequently during the day, and especially at the beginning of the principal actions.

Solemn Promise to Spread Devotion to the Holy Ghost Every Day

I ..... promise solemnly today to spread devotion to the Holy Ghost every day of my life, by means of prayer, action or sacrifice.

I shall consider that I have complied with Solemn Promise of love if I have recited during the day one *Hail Mary* with the intention of begging that the devotion may be spread. If I am unwell and unable to pray, I shall have complied with my Promise by offering, at least once during the day, for the same intention, my sufferings, physical and moral.

May the Holy Ghost help me, and sanctify me and all those whom I love and the whole world. Amen.

Date and Signature .....

(d) Golden Counsels

FOR ALL THOSE WHO BELONG TO THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE HOLY GHOST

1. Constant invocations to the Holy Ghost.
2. To repeat frequently: "I love Thee, I love Thee. . . ."
3. Spiritual Communions at least every hour.
4. Everything in the spirit of faith.
5. Everything with great charity.
6. Remember that everything comes from God.
7. To mortify ourselves every time that we think of it.
8. Always to love and forgive.
9. To forget, out of love, the injustices we suffer.
10. Not to measure the height of our crosses.
11. No self-praise or conversation about ourselves.
12. Not to excuse ourselves.
13. A smile always upon our lips.
14. Good-will, interior and exterior, towards all.
15. To seek in all things the Will of God.

SECOND PART

PRAYERS AND PRACTICES OF PIETY IN HONOR OF THE HOLY GHOST

Veni Creator

Come, O Creator, Spirit blest!
And in our souls take up Thy rest;
Come, with Thy grace of heavenly aid,
To fill the hearts which Thou hast made.

Great Paraclete; to Thee we cry:
O highest gift of God most high!
O fount of life! O fire of love!
And sweet Anointing from above!

Thou in Thy sevenfold gifts art known!
Thee, Finger of God's hand, we own:
The Promise of the Father Thou!
Who dost the tongue with pow'r endow.

Kindle our senses from above,
And make our hearts o'erflow with love;
With patience firm and virtue high,
The weakness of our flesh supply.

Far from us drive the foe we dread,
And grant us Thy true peace instead;
So shall we not with Thee for guide,
Turn from the path of life aside.

Oh, may Thy grace on us bestow
The Father and the Son to know,
And Thee, through endless times confess'd,
Of both th' eternal Spirit blest.

All glory while the ages run,
Be to the Father and the Son,
Who rose from death; the same to Thee
O Holy Ghost eternally. Amen.

Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Holy Spirit! Lord of light!
From Thy clear celestial height
Thy pure beaming radiance give;

Come, Thou Father of the poor!
Come, with treasures which endure!
Come, Thou Light of all that live!

Thou of all consolers best,
Visiting the troubled breast,
Dost refreshing peace bestow;

Thou in toil art comfort sweet;
Pleasant coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal! Light divine!
Visit Thou those hearts of Thine,
And our inmost being fill:

If Thou take Thy grace away
Nothing pure in man will stay;
All his good is turn'd to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew
On our dryness pour Thy dew
Wash the stains of guilt away;

Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill:
Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou on those who evermore
Thee confess and Thee adore,
In Thy sevenfold gifts descend:

Give them comfort when they die;
Give them life with Thee on high;
Give them joys which never end. Amen.

EJACULATORY PRAYERS

Come, O Holy Ghost, fill the hearts of Thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Thy love. (300 *Days' Indulgence,* each time. Pius X, May 8, 1907.)

O Holy Ghost, Who art Love, inflame my heart with the love with which Thou art on fire!

O Holy Ghost, Who art the Bond of

Love! unite me closely and forever to the Father and the Divine Word!

Divine Consoler! Heavenly Comforter! grant that inflamed with Thy love I may despise the things of earth.

O Holy Ghost, Fount of all purity, communicate to me that virtue by means of the Cross, and preserve my body and soul ever pure and spotless! (Most efficacious in temptations against holy purity.)

O Holy Ghost, possess me and let me possess Thee, and let me live ever beneath Thy wings and in the warmth of Thy most holy love. (Strongly recommended to the *Apostleship of the Holy Ghost.*)

PRAYER

To be recited every day by the members of the Apostleship of the Holy Ghost in their Thanksgiving after Communion.

O Holy Ghost, grant that all of us who belong to Thee in a special manner, as the members of Thy beloved Apostleship, may love Thee every day more and more, and may make Thee loved by thousands of souls until we breathe our last breath. Amen.

PRAYERS TO THE HOLY GHOST IN THE FORM OF A LITANY *

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

God the Father Almighty, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Eternal Son of the Father, Redeemer of the world, save us.

Spirit of the Father and the Son and Infinite Love of Both, sanctify us.

Most Holy Trinity, hear us.

Holy Ghost, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
Promise of the Father,
Gift of God Most High,
Ray of Heavenly Light,
Fount of Living Water,
Consuming Fire,
Author of all Good,
Spiritual Unction,
Ardent Charity,
Spirit of Wisdom,
Spirit of Understanding,
Spirit of Counsel and of Fortitude,

Come to us.

* Not authorized for public recitation.

Spirit of Knowledge and of Piety,
Spirit of the Fear of the Lord,
Spirit of truth and of love,
Spirit of grace and of prayer,
Spirit of peace and of sweetness,
Spirit of modesty and of innocence,
Spirit of Consolation,
Spirit of Sanctification,
Spirit that governest the Church,
Spirit that fillest the Universe,
Spirit of adoption of the sons of God,

Come to us.

Holy Ghost, imprint on our hearts a horror of sin,
Holy Ghost, come and renew the face of the earth,
Holy Ghost, shed Thy light upon our understanding,
Holy Ghost, engrave Thy law upon our hearts,
Holy Ghost, consume us in the fire of Thy love,
Holy Ghost, open to us the treasure of Thy grace,
Holy Ghost, teach us how we ought to pray,
Holy Ghost, enlighten us with Thy heavenly inspirations,

We beseech Thee, hear us.

Holy Ghost, grant us the one knowledge that is necessary,
Holy Ghost, instill into us the practice of the virtues,
Holy Ghost, grant that we may persevere in justice,
Holy Ghost, be Thou Thyself our Reward,

We beseech Thee, hear us.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world: *Send us Thy Holy Spirit.*

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world: *Pour out upon our souls the Gifts of the Holy Ghost.*

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world: *Imbue us with the spirit of wisdom and devotion.*

V. Come, O Holy Ghost, fill the hearts of Thy faithful.

R. And kindle in them the fire of Thy love.

LET US PRAY

O God, Who didst instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise, and ever to rejoice in His consolation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

TO THE HOLY GHOST

(*Prayer of St. Augustine*)

O Divine Love! O Bond that unitest the Father and the Son, Spirit of Power, faithful Consoler of the afflicted, penetrate to the profoundest depths of my heart!

Let the splendor of Thy light shine in it.

Let Thy sweet dew fall upon it that its great dryness may cease.

Send forth the heavenly rays of Thy love to the Sanctuary of my soul, so that penetrating there, they may enkindle burning flames that will consume all my weakness, my negligence and my languor.

Come, then, come Thou sweet Consoler of desolate souls, Thou Refuge in danger and Protector in distress.

Come, Thou that cleansest souls of their stains and healest their wounds.

Come, Strength of the weak, Support of those about to fall.

Come, Teacher of the humble, Vanquisher of the proud.

Come, Father of the orphan, Hope of the poor, Treasure of those in need.

Come, Star of the mariner, safe Harbor for those in danger of shipwreck.

Come, Strength of the living, Salvation of those about to die.

Come, O Holy Ghost, come and have mercy on me.

Make my soul simple, docile and upright, and show pity towards my weakness with such clemency that my nothingness may find grace before Thy infinite greatness, my impotence before Thy omnipotence, and my offenses before the multitude of Thy mercies.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ my Saviour. Amen.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY GHOST

By Father Nieremberg, S.J.

What consolation for me, O Divine Spirit, to have such a Consoler as Thou art! For Thou art all love, gentleness, joy, sweetness, generosity and every good gift! Thou art the most tender Love of the Father and the Son, Their most delicate Embrace, Their Kiss most sweet and Their Bond indissoluble! Thou art infinite Tranquillity, calmest Peace, Union complete, Consolation of the sorrowful, heavenly Delight, River of grace and Ocean of sweetness!

Thou art the Father of the poor, the Light of our hearts, the most sweet Guest

and the Refreshment of our souls. Let me rejoice then, in all that Thou art, O Love Infinite! Thou didst accomplish the Incarnation and didst sanctify Mary. Thou givest testimony of the Word, and didst procure that He Who is God should die in order to give us life. Thou, not content with that, dost come to our souls to fill them with Thy gifts. Through Thee are we made partakers of the Divine Nature, elevated above all created things, the friends of God and His sons. Thou choosest the holy soul of Thy spouse. Thou makest Thy temple in the bosom of the just. Thou fillest the saints with virtues, teachest them heavenly truths, and art their Counsel and their Help. Thou prayest for them with unspeakable groanings, teaching them the way of prayer and of sacrifice.

Finally, Thou wilt be the Glorifier of souls, the glory of Confessors, the palm of martyrs, the wreath of virgins, the crown of saints, and the perpetual joy of the blessed.

I rejoice in all that Thou art and wilt be for me, namely, *Love, most pure and most holy.* Grant me the grace to hear Thy inspirations, to heed Thy counsels, to follow Thy light, to form in my heart

Thy Nest, spotless and pure, to triumph over my vices, to destroy my self-love, and to live only for the service of God and my neighbor, my soul glowing with flames of heavenly charity until death and forever. Amen.

PRAYER

To Beg for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Ghost

Omnipotent and Eternal God, Who hast willed to regenerate Thy servants in water and in the Holy Ghost; Thou Who hast granted us the remission of our sins; let Thy Holy Spirit, our Divine Consoler, descend from Heaven upon us with His Seven precious Gifts.

Deign to send us *Thy Spirit of Wisdom,* that He may discover to us the enemies that we ought to fear, and the dangers that we ought to avoid amid the deceptive appearances of this world; that He may make us choose in every circumstance what is most useful for the preservation and increase of divine life in us and for our eternal salvation.

Send us *Thy Spirit of Understanding,*

that He may make us understand the beauty, the sweetness and the fruitfulness of the holy truths whose light illumines our path in this world, truths which Thou, O Heavenly Father, dost reveal with so much love to the humble, whilst Thou hidest them from the proud.

Send us *Thy Spirit of Counsel,* that in the moment of action He may always incline us to the most opportune and prudent of reflections; that He may make us perfectly docile to Thy secret inspirations; and that He may also make us, in time of need, the courageous and self-denying counsellors of our brothers.

Send us *Thy Spirit of Fortitude,* that He may change our weakness into strength and that of the faint-hearted He may make *apostles full of burning zeal.*

Send us *Thy Spirit of Knowledge,* that He may inspire us with a horror of lying and of error; that He may inflame us with a noble and holy love of all the truths that Thou hast taught us; and that, to guard these truths, He may place in our hearts a constant memory of them such as that possessed by the most holy Virgin, our beloved Mother.

Give us *Thy Spirit of Piety,* that He may enkindle in us the fire of Thy love,

of that love which makes us love Thy divine Will ardently even in things most minute, that is to say, in our Duty; that love which carries, even to heroism and martyrdom, the souls that it has filled, and which, by means of faith in prayer, secures for them strength, perseverance and victory, in all things.

Fill us, Lord, with *Thy Spirit of Fear,* that, even in the midst of the sweet intimacies with which Thou dost favor us, He may never allow us to forget Thy infinite majesty, Thy boundless power and Thy dread judgment; send us that *Spirit of Fear,* that He may keep us ever under Thy gaze, Thy direction and Thy sovereign dominion, and that, above all, forming in our hearts a sublime and delicious union of respect and love, He may make us see that the only real misfortune for the creature is the black ingratitude that is contracted through sin. Amen.

PRAYER

To Beg for the Twelve Fruits of the Holy Ghost

O Holy Ghost, Eternal Love of the Father and the Son! deign to grant me

the *Fruit of Charity,* that it may unite me to Thee by means of love; the *Fruit of Joy,* that it may fill me with a holy happiness even in the midst of affliction; the *Fruit of Peace,* that it may give me tranquillity in my conscience; the *Fruit of Patience,* that it may make me love the Cross and help me to bear it; the *Fruit of Benignity,* that it may incline me to relieve the necessities of my neighbor; the *Fruit of Goodness,* that it may make me kind to all; the *Fruit of Longanimity,* that it may maintain me in patience in the midst of opposition; the *Fruit of Mildness,* that it may make me endure tranquilly whatever there may be in my neighbor to cause me annoyance; the *Fruit of Faith,* that it may permeate me with respect and love for the word of God; the *Fruit of Modesty,* that it may regulate all my external acts; the *Fruit of Continency,* that it may preserve my body in holiness; and the *Fruit of Chastity,* that my heart remaining ever pure in this world, I may deserve to see Thee in the Mansions of Thy glory. Amen.

INTIMATE PRAYER TO THE HOLY GHOST

Holy Ghost, I consecrate to Thee my body with its senses, and I beg of Thee to employ them for the greater glory of God.

Holy Ghost, I consecrate to Thee my eyes, that they may look only on my Jesus.

Holy Ghost, I consecrate to Thee my ears, that they may be attentive only to Thy divine inspirations.

Holy Ghost, I consecrate to Thee all my senses, that they may serve me only to love Jesus and to sacrifice myself for Him.

Holy Ghost, I consecrate to Thee my soul with all its faculties, that it may be Thy Temple and Thy Oasis.

Holy Ghost, I consecrate to Thee my memory, that it may be mindful only of Thy beauty, and of the words, acts and Passion of my Jesus.

Holy Ghost, I consecrate to Thee my heart with all its affections, that captivated alone by the charms and the delights of Thy love, it may ever find in Thee Peace, Love, Strength, Light and all Thy Gifts and Fruits, and that loving Thee every day more and more, and making Thee loved by many souls, and by the

whole world, were it possible, Thou mayest also love me more and more, and make me holy with all those that I love. Amen.

LOVING PRAYER TO THE HOLY GHOST

Come! Holy and Vivifying Spirit, our Delight and our Love! Come! here to Thy Nest! Come here to Thy Cross! Come, make me worthy of our most sweet Jesus!

Come! Divine Fire! Come without delay and melt the icy coldness of my poor heart.

With all fervor, I promise Thee to imitate my Mother and Thy Spouse, to love Him in spirit and in truth, in time and in eternity.

Help me to love beyond measure my sweetest Jesus and to love the Cross with constancy.

I promise Thee to be pure, to be ever Thy victim, O Divine Spirit, ever striving to please Thee.

I offer Thee, my Lord, my labors of each day, all impregnated with the spirit of love and of the Cross. I offer Thee my

death, my life, my tongue, my eyes, every footstep of mine, every breath I breathe. I offer Thee all the love of my soul and every beat of my heart. Amen.

FOR OUR COUNTRY

Prayer to the Holy Ghost

O Holy and most Beloved Spirit of God, to Thee do we commend all the needs of our dear Country, confident that in Thy mercy Thou wilt hear us and deliver us from all the evils which afflict or threaten us.

Come, Divine Fount of all happiness, and pour down Thy holy peace upon our dear land, and maintain it in peace in spite of all enemies, whether from within or without.

Thou Who art the Soul of the Catholic Church, Thou Who sheddest abroad Divine Charity, Thou Who art the Light of the understanding and the Divine Fire that inflameth the heart, draw to the fair bosom of the Spouse of Christ all her erring children, giving the priceless gift of Faith to those who possess it not, and

confirming us all in loving service and obedience to our Holy Father the Pope and to the Bishops and Pastors of the Church.

Behold our miseries, O Divine Spirit! Look upon the countless offenses committed, in public and in private, against the Divine Majesty. Certain it is that we have merited naught except castigation at the hands of God, but have we not Mary, our Mother and Thy Immaculate Spouse, and have we not Thee Thyself, O Spirit of Consolation, to save us from our enemies and from the effects of our offenses!

We implore Thee, then, to send forth Thy vivifying breath to renew the face of our dear land. Who, O Divine Spirit, can triumph as Thou canst against the powers of Hell itself! For, art Thou not the Fire that consumeth all sin, Essential Purity, the Bond of brotherhood that we so yearn for, Truth infallible, and Love, oh yes, Love Divine that uniteth all, reconcileth all and purifieth all!

Save us, then, for we perish! Fortify, preserve and extend the reign of Thy Church in our beloved land; allay all strife, political, social and domestic; enlighten, guide and possess our Rulers, through the merits of Christ our Lord and

the intercession of Mary, Thy Immaculate Spouse.

St. Michael, Archangel, who hast so often been sent to combat for us against Lucifer and his vile followers, deliver us from the wiles of that Evil Spirit, and grant that our holy religion may triumph over the enemies who blindly oppose or persecute it. Amen.

NOVENA TO THE HOLY GHOST

1°. Act of Contrition.

2°. Recital of Hymn: "Veni, Sancte Spiritus."

3°. Opening prayer for each day of the Novena.

O Holy Ghost, Light of souls, invincible Fortitude, essential Purity, supreme Consoler, most sweet and tender Delight of our life, in pity pour upon our souls the holiness of which Thou art the Fount!

O Eternal Bond of love between the Father and the Son! unite our souls with that God Who is Love, that we may think only of Him and for Him alone sacrifice ourselves.

Thou art the Heavenly Breath that animates the soul and gives it life! Thou art that most pure Dew that refreshes the heart in its aridity and dryness!

Thou art He that infuses faith, sustains Hope and communicates Love.

Thou it is Who givest courage to the soul in its struggles, Thou Who raisest it up after its fall, Thou Who sustainest it in its trials and liftest it up above the things of earth!

Thou its Light, its Warmth, its Life, its All!

Thou art the Food of Purity and Chastity!

Do Thou, O living Fire, ever burning yet never consumed, Who destroyest our imperfections even to the last shred, do Thou set us on fire with love.

O Divine Spirit, beneath Whose shadow we abandon ourselves with confidence, make our souls fruitful, giving us the love of the Cross.

Thou art our happiness, our hope, our glory! Grant us, in this Novena which we offer to Thee with such fervor, the grace that Thy reign and that of the Cross may be extended throughout the whole world, and that we may never do anything that is not pleasing to Jesus.

May sorrow be loved, may suffering be yearned for, and may souls burn with the thirst for sacrifice! Hear us, protect us, and give us Thy Gifts, Thy Fruits and every virtue, although we deserve it not.

All our senses and powers are Thine, sanctify them by means of purity and suffering.

May Thy wings, spread over us like a Cross, make us live within the Cross, and die as victims after a life of purity, that we may, hereafter, listen to the heavenly sweetness of Thy Eternal Lovesong. Amen.

4°. Recite the "Gloria Patri" three times, and make a Meditation appropriate to the day with your petition, concluding with the following prayer each day:

5°. Closing Prayer for each day of the Novena:

Divine Spirit, most precious Treasure of our souls, fathomless Sea of Goodness, most tender and sweet Consoler, with our whole heart we adore and praise Thee, begging of Thee to pour upon our souls the torrents of Thy light, and to chase from them the darkness of sin. O most beloved Protector, fill us with a most in-

tense love of purity and sacrifice, captivating us with Thy heavenly charms. Grant us, in union with the Divine Word, the salvation of millions of souls by means of these precious virtues. May the Works of the Cross triumph, snatching souls from Hell itself. May Thy missionaries be multiplied for Thy greater glory.

O Holy Ghost, most beloved! Our Light, our Peace, our Joy, our Delight, our Consolation and our Love, melt the icy coldness of our breasts, and come to set aflame in us Thy Divine Fire. Amen.

PRAYER

To the Blessed Virgin to Beg for Some Special Grace from the Holy Ghost

O Mary! most humble Daughter of the Father, most pure Mother of the Son, most faithful Spouse of the Holy Ghost, I venerate thee with profound humility . . . Mother most merciful, secure Refuge and most sweet Advocate of sinners . . . I bend low before thy Immaculate Heart, Tabernacle of the Most Holy Trinity, Seat of Power, Wisdom and Goodness; by thy hands I offer my Heart to God the Holy

Ghost, that He may grant me what with all humility I implore, and what, with all confidence, through thy merits, I hope to obtain from His Infinite Goodness. Amen.

CONSECRATION OF THE HOME

To Mary, Spouse of the Holy Ghost

No creature has loved the Holy Ghost as much as the most Holy Virgin Mary has loved Him.

It is natural, then, that we who want to love the Holy Ghost with our whole soul, and to make Him loved by thousands of hearts, should unite ourselves to her who has been called, *par excellence, the Spouse of the Holy Ghost.*

Therefore, within the week that follows the making of the Promise, *each member of the Apostleship of the Holy Ghost* will consecrate himself, his family, his home, with all that he has or may have, to the Blessed Virgin.

It would be very beautiful to hold an intimate little Feast on the occasion, erecting a little altar to the Blessed Virgin,

lighting some candles, and putting the keys of the house on a cushion before it.

The following order might be followed on the occasion:

1°. Recital of the *Veni Creator.*

2°. The blessing of the house.

3°. Recital of the following formula:

FORMULA

Of the Consecration of the Home to Mary Most Holy, Spouse of the Holy Ghost

Mother of my soul, with all the love of my heart, I choose thee today as Queen, Sovereign and Mother of this house and of all that it contains; all of us who live in it and all our possessions.

Receive all the keys as Mistress and Owner, and grant me the happiness of being Thy child, Thy slave and Thy servant, that I may serve Thee and love Thee with all my soul.

I promise Thee that I will undertake nothing of importance without consulting Thee before hand, and all that I may do I will do in the effort to imitate Thee, uniting my heart to Thy Heart and all my intentions to Thine.

In this house Thou wilt occupy the first place and I the last.

Remember, O Spouse of the Holy Ghost, Mother of the Word Incarnate, that by my Promise to spread devotion to the Holy Ghost I am all the more Thine; and be Thou from this day henceforth, in all things, more than ever, my loving Guide, my Inspiration and my Mother.

I love Thee, and will make Thee loved, Holy Virgin, with all my strength and until the last breath of my life.

In all the rooms of this house I shall place Thy sacred Image, that Thou mayest bless them and banish the enemy from them, and not permit in them any murmur or offense against God. Permeate their very atmosphere with purity, Immaculate Virgin, that we may inhale in them only the spirit of purity, candor, innocence, suffering and love; and do Thou accept whatsoever sorrows and joys we may henceforth experience therein.

O Blessed and Most Beloved Virgin Mary, let me disappear with all my defects, and do Thou manifest Thyself in me and in mine, with Thy sweetness, charity, self-denial, humility and all Thy virtues.

O my Queen, we are Thy subjects! O my Mistress, we are Thy slaves! O my

Mother, my most beloved Mother, we are Thy children! Bless us and love us every day more and more, obtaining for us from the Holy Ghost His choicest graces. Amen.

4°. Recital of the Prayer of the Apostleship of the Holy Ghost (page 12).

5°. The blessing of the Holy Ghost (page 46).

SUNDAY COMMUNION

Offered to the Holy Ghost in Favor of the Church and of Priests

We recommend very specially to Priests and to the faithful the practice of the *Sunday Communion offered to the Holy Ghost,* already propagated with such zeal by many distinguished Prelates.

The practice consists *in offering Communion every Sunday to the Holy Ghost, by the hands of Mary, in favor of the Church and of Priests.*

Those who adopt this devotion should, when making the offering of their Sunday Communion, intercede earnestly for Priests, so that they may become every day more holy and more zealous and *ardent apostles of the Holy Ghost.*

It is much to be desired that this prac-

tice of the *Sunday Communion* should become general in every parish, in Seminaries, Universities, Colleges, and especially in religious Communities.

PRAYER

To the Holy Ghost in Favor of the Church

O Holy Spirit, Creator, be propitious to the Catholic Church; and by Thy heavenly power make it strong and secure against the attacks of its enemies; and renew in charity and grace the spirit of Thy servants, whom Thou hast anointed, that they may glorify Thee and the Father and His Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (300 *Days' Indulgence, once a day.* Leo XIII, August 26, 1889.)

All for Love! Formula of the Vow of Love

O my Jesus! I make the perpetual (or temporary) Vow, under pain of venial sin, *to preserve the habitual disposition* of doing all my actions for love of Thee, *abandoning myself without restriction to Thy divine Will, for that is the highest degree of love.* Amen.

Advantages of the Vow of Love

1. It establishes the soul in a *state of love.*

2. It creates new relations between Jesus and the soul, and opens up, as it were, a fountain of heavenly intimacies and favors.

3. It increases our fervor, disclosing to the soul new paths of holiness, and leading it constantly to a higher perfection.

Will not this Vow tend to create scruples?

No. It would do so if it were a Vow *to do each action* out of love, a thing which is not practical or feasible; but it is not so, as the Vow has, solely, for its object the habitual disposition of doing all out of love, and in order to fail in fulfillment of the Vow it would be necessary, *with full deliberation, to relinquish that habitual disposition.* For the same reason, a venial sin does not, of itself, violate the Vow.

THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

We respectfully beg of all the members of the *Apostleship of the Holy Ghost to offer their Communion on the First Mon-*

day of each month for the spread of devotion to the Holy Ghost.

During their thanksgiving on that day, they should renew their Promise or Vow, and recite the Prayer to implore the Consecration of the world to the Holy Ghost (page 43), the Act of Consecration to the same Divine Spirit (page 48), the Prayer for Our Country (page 25), and the Prayer of the Apostleship of the Holy Ghost (page 12).

ACT OF TOTAL SURRENDER TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus! My Life, my Sweetness, my Hope, and the one yearning desire of my poor soul! I ..... annihilated in Thy divine presence and desirous of pleasing Thee in all things, make a total surrender of my whole being to Thy Divine Majesty.

I am all Thine, my Jesus, and I desire to renounce myself and to die to all that is not Thy Cross or does not lead me to Thee.

I accept desolation, abandonment, in-

terior and hidden martyrdom; I desire to imitate Thee, my beloved Jesus, and I embrace Thy Cross in every form in which it may please Thee to send It to me.

I accept, out of pure love, Thy agony of soul in the Garden of Olives, even though it make my soul bleed, and I embrace Thy desolation on the Cross, hiding myself forever within Thy Divine Heart.

I cast myself into Thy arms, Lord, and there I find my rest. My meat will be to do Thy Holy Will, which will ever be my law and my guide, and I will fulfill it even in the things that are repugnant to my nature, conquering myself for love of Thee. I will let Thee do with me as Thou wilt, and I place myself in Thy hands like a morsel of soft wax; impress upon me Thy image, such as Thou wert in the Garden, in Thy Scourging, upon the Cross, in Death, in Thy Resurrection . . . for in nothing will I resist Thee.

Spouse of my life, unite me to Thyself; pour the divine Blood of Thy Heart upon my soul; let those thorns that pierce It grip both our hearts, that so bound together, they may form but one. The Cross that pierces Thy Heart, let it transfix mine as well, that they may throb with

the same pulsation. Let Thy lance open my heart, and let it be wounded with the gaping wound of love and suffering.

O Mary, my Mother, behold thy Child! By Thy blessed hands I send to my Jesus this total surrender of my whole being, and do Thou, Who knewest how to sacrifice Thyself with such generosity, grant me the grace to love the Cross and to die nailed to It, without ever descending from It. Amen.

ECCE . . . ! FIAT . . . !

Behold! I come, my God, that I may do Thy Will . . . !

My Lord! When I surrendered myself to You, I did it voluntarily and with all sincerity of my heart! Will you permit me to falter in face of the suffering that ought to unite us? O Jesus! Friend of my soul, have pity on me, and grant that I may submit to every sacrifice, no matter how painful it may be.

I desire, yes, I desire that in every moment of my life I may be able to say to You without any hesitation:

If You wish that my days be filled with anxieties and with sadness, that my hours

pass in a perpetual contradiction of my tastes and desires, *I also, O my God, wish it; I love You, and behold here I am to do Your Will.*

If You wish that I be a prey to doubts that disturb, to toil that wearies; that nowhere may I find peace, that one anxiety follow upon another, that suffering succeed suffering without respite or repose, *I also, O my God, wish it; I love You, and behold here I am to do Your Will.*

If You wish that I be tossed about by temptations, becoming ever more violent, and that my difficulties, increasing every day, discover to me without cessation the abyss open before my feet, then, O my God, provided that I remain with a *firm* will of being faithful to You, *I also wish it; I love You, and behold here I am to do Your Will.*

If You wish that, for the accomplishment of some little good, my heart be crushed by trials, like wheat beneath the mill-stone or like the grape in the wine-press, *I also, O my God, wish it; I love You, and behold here I am to do Your Will.*

If You wish to wrench from my sou the affections that fill it, each one leaving in its place a wound so painful that no

hand can cure it, *I also, O my God, wish it; I love You, and behold here I am to do Your Will.*

If You wish to withdraw from my path all that sustains and enlightens me, if You wish that I climb alone the rough road to Calvary, without other support than Your Will, if You wish to strip me of every consolation, *I also, O my God, wish it; I love You, and behold here I am to do Your Will.*

If You wish that I be stretched upon the Cross, without defending myself against those who wish to make me suffer, with my hands nailed to It by the renunciation of all things, my feet fastened to It by the determination to belong to You, my head crowned with the thorns of humiliations and bowed down under obedience, my body broken by penance and illness, my heart torn by suffering, with its wound ever open to give full expansion to its love and its charity; if You wish that I remain upon this Cross, ever desiring Your consolation, deprived of all sensible comfort, abandoned by all, and even, apparently, by You, *O Spouse of my soul, chosen among thousands, I also wish it; for I love You, and desire nothing except Your Will.* Amen.

TO JESUS AND MARY

(Prayer to be said after Communion)

Soul of Christ, sanctify me!

Heart of Mary, help me!

Body of Christ, save me!

Mother of my soul, convert me!

Blood of Christ, inebriate me!

Sorrows of Mary, pierce me!

Water from the Side of Christ, cleanse me!

Tears of Mary, purify me!

Passion of Christ, comfort me!

Loneliness of Mary, sustain me!

O my good Jesus, hear me!

O Mary most tender, behold me!

Within Thy Wounds, O Jesus, hide me!

In the depths of Thy soul, O Mary, inflame me!

From the evil enemy, O Jesus, defend me!

In Thy arms, at my death, O Mary, receive me!

With the angels and the saints, O Jesus, place me!

To behold Thee in Heaven, O my Mother, summon me. Amen.

ASPIRATIONS TO THE HOLY GHOST

(To be said after Mass or Communion)

Light of the Intellect, enlighten me;
Divine Fire of hearts, inflame me;
Fullness of souls, fill me;
Lord of grace and life, vivify me;
In this vale of suffering, guide me;
In my weakness, strengthen me;
From stumbles and falls, deliver me;
With Thy Divine Gifts, overwhelm me;
With Thy presence, console me;
By Thy divine operations, sanctify me;
In my Jesus, transform me;
And unto Thy glory bear me;
That having been faithful upon earth, I may be eternally happy in Heaven, in the perfect revelation of Thy Love. Amen.

PRAYER

To the Most Holy Trinity, to Implore the Consecration of the World to the Holy Ghost

O Most Holy Trinity, O Triune God, most beloved of our souls, humbly prostrate before Thy Infinite Majesty, and desirous of seeing Thee known, loved and served throughout the entire universe, we implore of Thee with all the love of our

souls a most special grace, which must, of necessity, draw down inestimable blessings upon the world, namely, that Thy Representative upon earth, the Sovereign Pontiff, *should consecrate the human race to the Holy Ghost,* as it was in the first instance consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Temple of the same Divine Spirit.

We make this petition to Thee, O Most Merciful Trinity, through Mary, Spouse of the Holy Ghost, since she, above all others, is interested in the exaltation of the Third Divine Person, and in the spiritual welfare of men, her children.

Oh yes; *may the whole universe be consecrated to the Most Sweet Spirit of the Father and the Son,* and may there, henceforth, not exist a single heart in which He that is Love, Union and Peace does not live and reign.

We shall not fail, for a single day, to implore this grace, O Lord, until our desires are realized, for we firmly believe that the reign of the Holy Ghost in the universe will extinguish hatred, will diffuse fraternal charity in the hearts of men, and uniting all like brothers, will spread abroad in the world the only true peace. Amen.

APPENDIX

CEREMONIAL

For the Solemn Admission of Mem bers of the Apostleship of the Holy Ghost and for the Reception of Promoters

1. *Veni, Creator.* (To be sung. The priest begins and the faithful continue. The first verse is sung with arms extended in the form of a cross.)

2. Brief exhortation to the new members.

3. Imposition of Insignia and Medals and delivery of Certificates or Diplomas with the following formulas:

For the Imposition of Insignia and Medal

Receive, my child, this Insignia and this Medal of the Holy Ghost as a pledge of your desire to love Him more and more all the days of your life, and to be His Apostle until your last breath. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

For the Delivery of the Certificate

Receive this Certificate in which it is recorded that you have been enrolled in

the Apostleship of the Holy Ghost. May the Divine Spirit descend upon you and renew and transform you in Jesus Christ, for the glory of the Heavenly Father. Amen.

For the Delivery of the Promoter's Diploma

Receive this Diploma which acknowledges you as an Apostle of the Holy Ghost. May you be so in truth by your works, and the same Divine Spirit will be your consolation in your sufferings and your reward throughout eternity. Amen.

4. The Priest gives each of the new members and Promotors the **Blessing of the Holy Ghost,** as follows:

May the Holy Ghost, the Fount of all purity, communicate that virtue to you by means of the Cross, preserving your body and soul pure and spotless. In the name of the Father ✠ and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

5. The ceremony may conclude with a Hymn to the Holy Ghost.

THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE HOLY GHOST

Form of Certificate of Membership

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT.....

.....

has been admitted as a Member of the Apostleship of the Holy Ghost this

.....day of.....19.....

having undertaken (but *without* obligation under pain of sin) to spread devotion to the Holy Ghost by means of prayer, action or sacrifice.

For FELIX OF JESUS,

M.S.S. SUP. GEN.,

Director-General.

Signed .....

Director of Center at.....

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY GHOST

Receive, O Holy Spirit of Love, the perfect and absolute consecration of my whole being which I make to Thee this day, in order that henceforth, at every moment of my life and in each of my actions, Thou mayest deign to be MY DIRECTOR, MY LIGHT, MY GUIDE, MY STRENGTH, AND ALL THE LOVE OF MY HEART.

I abandon myself without reserve to Thy divine operations, and I wish to be always responsive to Thy holy inspirations.

O Holy Ghost! deign to form me, with Mary and in Mary, according to the model of our Divine Jesus.

Glory be to the Father, the Creator. Glory be to the Son, the Redeemer. Glory be to the Holy Ghost, the Sanctifier.

CONSIDERATIONS UPON THE PRESENCE OF GOD

In order to attain to the enjoyment of the intimate and familiar presence of God in the soul, it is necessary for the soul to live a supernatural life through purity of

intention: a life such as the saints lead.

The presence of God is born of interior silence in a soul that is pure or purified, for this divine presence is so exquisitely pure and delicate that it does not admit of the slightest stain or speck near it. There are many different degrees of this divine presence, and there are some so high that they border on the loftiest prayer of union; but in all its degrees it is a grace for which nothing can repay, for it carries with it a constant recollection of God that is always impelling the soul towards what is good and keeping it from evil. The presence of God is the support of the virtues and the divine hot-house in which they flourish; it is the holy shaded place in which they bring forth fruits for heaven; it chases away the demon with the aroma in which it embalms the soul. The presence of God demands a reserve of the deepest humility and great modesty and recollection; and, in proportion to the elevation of these virtues, perception of the divine presence is given to the soul. The purest affections of the soul are quickened and flourish by this continual intercourse with the Deity. That divine presence should be eagerly sought by us; we should abandon all dis-

sipation, living secret, silent lives of sacrifice, hidden with Christ in God.

Do we desire to attain to the possession of the sublime secrets of the Cross? If so, let us spread our wings and fly far above the earth, soaring up to the Beloved of our souls. But let us not imagine that to find Him we have to ascend to the third heaven; no, the Kingdom of God is within us, and if we desire to find Him, let us descend to the depths of our soul, for in this sense to descend is to ascend, for the inner sanctuary of the soul, the Temple of the Holy Ghost, is far, far away from the earth and from things earthly.

O interior life! how lovable, how delightful thou art! In thee we realize clearly our own insignificance and the omnipotence and charity of God. O divine and holy presence that makest Thy abode in humble and pure hearts! how I yearn to be Thy shrine! Give us, O Lord, give us admission to that antechamber of Heaven in which we begin already to taste of heavenly delights. The day upon which Thy presence becomes intimate and familiar for us, when sleeping we dream of Thee and waking we speak of Thee, when not for a moment does the remembrance of Thee leave our souls, when Thou becomest

the Jesus of our hopes, joys and thoughts, on that day we shall be happy. We desire that Thy presence should be as indispensable to us as the air we breathe, the breeze that blows about us, the vitality that animates our existence. Will there be in us a single breath that does not echo . . . Jesus? or a thought that is not saturated with Him? Will there exist a single thing that does not remind us of Him? How could we forget or lose sight of Him Whom we bear so deeply engraved in our hearts?

O Lord! we long for the invasion of our being by Thy whole self, so that, absorbed in Thee, we ourselves may no longer live, but Thou, portrayed, stamped, living and palpitating, may abide in our souls. Amen.

Points That Will Help Us to Keep in the Presence of God

It is good and useful, according to our state and inclinations, to form for ourselves when rising an idea of the presence of God that will help us to be mindful of Him during the day.

1. To conceive that God is within us by His Essence, Presence and Power, and to lose ourselves in His Immensity.

2. To suppose, on the other hand, that we are, that we move, and that we exist within Him, as it were within a dwelling, inhaling and breathing forth His very Substance and Being.

3. In all exterior things, the elements, flowers and plants, to be mindful of Him.

4. In His creatures, to contemplate the reproduction of His divine Image.

5. To imagine that Jesus, in His Sacred Humanity, is close beside us, accompanying us in all our actions and never quitting our side.

6. To remember that His eyes are ever fixed upon us, not only upon our exterior, but also upon our thoughts and desires.

7. To consider ourselves as a Tabernacle, giving Him warmth, love, purity, hiding Him from all that could hurt Him.

8. Constantly to press Him modestly against our breast, caressing Him with all the tender affection of our soul, especially after any fall, humbling ourselves before Him.

9. To give Him always the first fruits of all our pleasures and of all our sufferings.

10. To ask Him constantly: What do You want, my Jesus, what do You want?

. . . and *at once* to conquer ourselves in that which costs us most.

11. At every step we take, to say with much devotion, interiorly, Jesus . . . Jesus . . . or Mary.

12. In the morning to beg the Blessed Virgin to give Him to us . . . as Babe . . . or Crucified . . . and so to bear Him throughout the day in mind and heart.

13. To imagine that His eyes follow us everywhere, enveloping us in His strength.

14. To imagine that our heart is the base of His Cross, and that it bears up the Crucified, receiving the warm Blood that falls from His Side and tasting of It with loving relish.

15. To consider ourselves as His Cross, and that He is crucified on it.

16. To see His adorable Image in the poor.

Let us imagine constantly that Jesus, stepping out to meet us, as it were intercepting us, asks of us: What virtue are you practicing now? At times the soul will answer Him: This or that virtue, Lord. For example, it may say to Him: Now, my Jesus, I am humbling myself . . . Now I am exercising self-control . . Now I am conquering myself . . . I am

practicing patience . . . I am obeying . . .

And again, our Lord will come to ask of the soul: And now, My child, what are you doing?

And the soul will answer Him: I am amiable and affable in this disappointment or opposition.

I reply with sweetness now—I that am inclined to be violent.

I am suffering because I love Thee. I endure this pain to alleviate Thine.

I am opposed and I smile.

I am forgotten and I am silent.

I am going to sew, and at every stitch I will say to Thee: Jesus!

I am going to read, and every letter will be an act of love.

I am going to sleep, but every beat of my heart will say to Thee: I love Thee.

Oh, would that every time that Jesus stepped forth to intercept us we were able to say to Him: I am thinking of Thee!

But how often, alas, will our Lord find us miserably losing our time!

What are you doing now, My child? He will often ask of us, and we shall reply with shame: Now, Lord, I am the victim of human respect, of pride; but don't take it into consideration, pardon me and look only at my misery and weakness.

Now I am idle, but I am going to conquer myself for love of Thee.

Now I am engaged in self-seeking; do Thou in Thy goodness punish me.

Now I feel desirous that others should love me, should esteem me; grant, for pity's sake, that they may humiliate and despise me.

O Lord! now I have fallen; give me Thy Hand to lift me up, and Thy pardon to make me feel ashamed.

I was thinking anxiously of the beloved ones that are absent; nevertheless, I desire only Thy Will.

What are you doing? once more will our Lord ask.

Nothing . . . What a shame! But this very moment a fervent act of love will make good the time lost.

Now I am about to think of Thee in Thy Divine Infancy . . . in Thy Crucifixion . . . on our Altars.

Now, although no one observes it, my soul is drinking in from Thy Heart that invisible nourishment that sanctifies it, and makes it happy and unites it to Thee.

Now I am amiable and full of consideration for others; and although I am occupied with my fellow-creatures, is it not true that Thou, O Love of my soul, art my

principal and only concern and occupation?

Now I am spelling out the beauties of Thy Holy Name . . . and scarcely understand anything that is not Jesus! Jesus!! Jesus!!!

Now I am emptying my heart that Thou mayest fill it.

Now I have to correct, to reprove, to admonish . . . but all without loss of peace.

Now I take pleasure in mortifying myself in Thy honor.

Now, interiorly, I am annihilating myself before Thee, without giving any exterior indication of it.

Now I yearn to possess Thee, although I deserve it not.

Now I am seeking Thee with all my strength, that Thou mayest enable me to suffer, to humble myself and to be silent.

And so in this manner we would pass our life with these reminders, with these holy pricks of the spur, with these intimate questions from Jesus, Who is concerned for what is His own, impelling us ever gently in the direction of what is good and holy.

In this way there will hardly be a moment in which we will not be practicing some virtue.

This is a mode of action in which perfection can be touched and handled, in which the presence of God is made evident, and in which love accomplishes all.

If we should venture to ask of our Lord: What art Thou doing now, my Jesus? . . . What reply would He make?

I believe that His divine lips would always say to us: I am loving thee, I am gazing at thee, I am taking care of thee, I am sheltering and protecting thee, and I am pouring out My graces upon thy soul.

Without doubt, that is what He would say; and we make no account of that love, of that gaze, of that care, of that protection, or of such great graces, but waste and squander them!

How guilty and ungrateful we are towards Him Who does naught but lavish favors upon us!

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